

Strategic Thoughts Discussed between WB, JM, and TH

- Future of Youth Bridge likely to be partly on-line, partly physical.
- On-line presents safeguarding and technical issues, but helps get over the geographic challenge. Bridge programmes with incorporated video more suitable than BBO.
- On-line junior events work better Nationally, and if large enough should be stratified for different ability levels eg. one for minibridge and bronze, one for silver and above.
- It is still uncertain how physical events will take place, but teaching is much easier face to face and there is little doubt that juniors like playing with each other in person, so we should plan for them.
- If junior bridge is to be in a position to respond to events such as lockdown quickly, there must be a national framework in place which can be put to work. That includes a database of names and agreement on a core schedule of events. As an example, why not a national junior on-line competition?
- Schools have no bandwidth at the moment, so best we can do is to approach parents and children through schools.
- William will start some pre-planning for a Junior Bridge Camp in early July at Bowles Rocks, but needs to have a plan B to run on-line (or hybrid)
- Juniors who have reached a suitable level to take part in 'gentle' national bridge can be encouraged and thought should go into offering a junior section for them.
- William will take the following suggestions to YAG:
 - Create a national forum (at a minimum database and a national online junior competition) for junior bridge that makes it much easier to reach more people and to move quickly in the event of another lockdown. Although there may be a funding issue with this, it is the probably the single most important need.
 - Provide clear guidelines on compliance with data protection and child safety rules for online competitions
 - Provide readily available advice on teaching online.
 - Encourage one of the bridge programmes / Apps to put a mini-bridge game in place
 - Provide readily available advice on running online tournaments
 - When ready with a programme, contact the schools network and ask them just to let parents know